

TRANSACTIONS OF THE 12TH CARIBBEAN GEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

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Edited by

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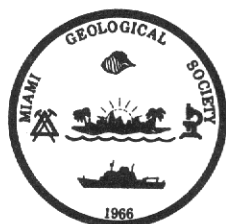
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EDITORS' FOREWORD

Editing a volume such as this is a distinct pleasure. It is a chance to share ideas and discover the current thinking about the geology of the Caribbean developed by its multinational constituency. It allows one to correct the syntax of your English-speaking colleagues (and to admire the same of you Spanish- and French- speaking friends). Waiting for late manuscripts gives lessons in the art of patience and the science of pleading. Furthermore, it gives opportunities to puzzle through exciting, though thoroughly confusing concepts of Caribbean tectonic evolution, only to find that you are editing your own paper, at the same time waiting seemingly interminably for Art Snoke's paper and listening to Fred Nagle recite baseball statistics. And lastly, there is the experience of accepting papers with unsolicited modifications, no reference to your trials in the acknowledgements and having all your editing ignored in the final version anyway. Editing has indeed been a sincere pleasure. The result of over a year of work, this volume represents a kind of "Dorian Gray" literature in which the editors have aged and the volume remains timeless.

Despite our tribulations, we are happy to say that the experiment of assembling the volume from author prepared "camera-ready" copy has been a success and this owes much to the perseverance and cooperation of the authors. This is a "first" for the Caribbean conference transactions and it has enabled us to produce the volume much more rapidly and much more cheaply than would otherwise have been possible (and also with much less work on the part of the editors).

Another distinguishing feature of the transactions is the inclusion of several works by some of our Cuban colleagues. Despite the fact that they were unable to attend the meeting, we felt it important that we try to disseminate their findings, as information on Cuba is difficult to find outside the island. Unfortunately we were unable to publish all of the manuscripts that were given Gren Draper as we did not have the time or resources to prepare the camera-ready copy for the second batch.

Many people helped us in our labors. Fred Nagle provided a constant source of information, anecdotes and encouragement (even though he was late with his Acknowledgements foreword). We are especially indebted to those of our colleagues who we coerced into reviewing papers. These were Hans Schellekens, Alan Smith, Homer Montgomery and Jim Joyce of the University of Puerto Rico, Gautam Sen of Florida International University, and Claudia Johnson of the University of Colorado - Boulder. We are grateful to Ana Cortada and Leticia Flores who helped prepare several of the Spanish manuscripts. The assistance of Iris Diaz, Nydia Torres and especially Dimas Camacho was essential in preparing the final camera-ready state of the volume.

Lastly, we thank the Miami Geological Society for agreeing to be the publisher of the transactions and for providing that necessary additional finance to make publication possible

Dave Larue
Gren Draper